

FEDERAL COURT GOVERNANCE - REGIONAL AND LOCAL INSTITUTIONS (EXCEPT SPECIAL COURTS)

Court of Appeals

- The chief judge who has precedence over other judges in the court and presides at any session he or she attends - is the circuit judge most senior in commission with at least one year of service but less than 65 years of age at the time of becoming chief judge. A judge may serve as chief circuit judge for no more than 7 years or until he or she attains the age of 70, whichever occurs first.
- Though not statutorily mandated, the chief circuit judge is generally considered responsible for the effective and efficient administration of the court of appeals in compliance with the statutes, Judicial Conference and circuit judicial council policies, and regulations issued by the Administrative Office with Conference approval.
- The court of appeals (i.e. the body of all circuit judges in regular active service) appoints bankruptcy judges as judicial officers of the district court. The court also appoints the clerk of court, court crier, and circuit librarian, and it approves appointments of the court's staff attorneys, deputy clerks, and other court employees (other than chambers staff). The court adopts its own local rules of practices and procedures.

Circuit Judicial Council

- Members - Chief judge of the court of appeals for the circuit (chair), equal number of active circuit and district judges of the circuit (precise numbers, terms, and mode of selection determined by vote of all active Article III judges of the circuit), and, in some circuits, senior judges, bankruptcy judges, and/or magistrate judges as non-voting observers.
- Meetings - Required to meet at least twice a year often does so more often.
- Functions - Makes "necessary and appropriate orders for the effective and expeditious administration of justice" within the circuit (all judges and employees in the circuit are required by statute to give effect to council orders); considers complaints of judicial misconduct and disability if referred by the chief circuit judge, reviews and may abrogate district court rules, appoints the circuit executive (who is secretary to the council), authorizes law clerks and other chambers personnel, approves chambers and courtroom space; performs numerous other duties as prescribed by statute or Judicial Conference policy.

District Court

- The Chief Judge who has precedence over other judges in the court and presides at any session he or she attends is the district judge most senior in commission with at least one year of service but less than 65 years of age at the time of becoming chief judge. A judge may serve as chief district judge for no more than 7 years or until he or she attains the age of 70, whichever occurs first.

FEDERAL COURT GOVERNANCE - NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Chief Justice of the United States

- Presides over the Judicial Conference and the Federal Judicial Center Board.
- Appoints all members of Judicial Conference committees.
- Appoints Director and Deputy Director of the Administrative Office in consultation with the Judicial Conference.

Administrative Office of the United States Courts

- Director and Deputy Director are appointed by the Chief Justice after consulting the Judicial Conference.
- Principal functions:
 - Staff support for the Judicial Conference and its committees.
 - Legislative representation and liaison in other agencies
 - Administrative and management support in the courts (e.g. long-range planning, legal services, budget, personnel program management, automation, supplies, space and facilities)
 - Statistics and public information

Judicial Conference of the United States

- Members - Chief Justice of the United States, presiding, chief circuit judge from each circuit, one district judge from each of the 12 regional circuits, elected by all Article III judges in the circuit, chief judge of the Court of International Trade.
- Meetings - Required to meet annually, but actually assembles twice each year, in March and September.
- Functions - Serves as the central policy-making body for the federal court system; surveys business of the courts and suggests improvements in the administration of justice, approves appropriation requests for submission to Congress, recommends changes in federal rules of procedure and evidence, supervises the Administrative Office, establishes court fees, performs numerous other statutory duties.

Federal Judicial Center

- Board consists of the Chief Justice (chair), two active circuit judges, three active district judges, and one active bankruptcy judge elected by the Judicial Conference; and the Director of the Administrative Office.

COMMITTEES OF THE JUDICIAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES

Executive Committee

Committee on the Administrative Office

Committee on Automation and Technology

Committee on the Administration of the Bankruptcy System

Committee on the Budget

Committee on Codes of Conduct

Committee on Court Administration and Case Management

Committee on Criminal Law

Committee on Defender Services

Committee on Federal-State Jurisdiction

Committee on Financial Disclosure

Committee on Intercircuit Assignments

Committee on International Judicial Relations

Committee on the Judicial Branch

Committee on Judicial Resources

Committee on the Administration of the Magistrate Judges System

Committee to Review Circuit Council Conduct and Disability Orders

Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure

Advisory Committee on Appellate Rules

Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules

Advisory Committee on Civil Rights

Advisory Committee on Criminal Rules

Advisory Committee on Evidence Rules

Committee on Security and Facilities